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A Narrative of the Adventures and Experience of Joseph H. Jackson, in Nauvoo. (1844? reprint 1960)

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A NARRATIVE

OF THE

ADVENTURES AND EXPERIENCE

OF

JOSEPH H. JACKSON,

IN NAUVOO.

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A NARRATIVE

OF THE

ADVENTURES AND EXPERIENCE

OF

JOSEPH H. JACKSON,

IN NAUVOO.

Reprinted for Karl Yost
Morrison, Illinois, 1960

NOTE

The entire original pamphlet has been re-set, line for line, in a type as closely approximating the original as available fonts permit. The title-page of the original has been reproduced in fascimile. The page size is exactly the same. This reprint is limited to 200 copies, of which this is copy No. 137.

REPRINT AMERICANA SERIES NO. 2

Composed and printed by
News-Sentinel Publishers
Morrison, Illinois

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INTRODUCTION

I.

This is a reprint of an extremely rare item of Americana. There are two copies known, based on a census of Cecil K. Byrd of the University of Indiana. Mr. Everett D. Graff has one, and the Chicago Historical Society Library has the other, with wrappers reproduced from the Graff copy.

I deem it worth reprinting because of its rarity and interest, although there is some doubt in my mind whether the Narrative can be considered history of the purest ray serene.

II.

The Mormon Church was organized April 6, 1830, at Fayette, Seneca County, New York, by Joseph Smith, self-styled prophet, and a few dozen devout converts. Within a year the headquarters of the new sect were moved to Kirtland, Ohio, where a forty thousand dollar temple was built, apparently in anticipation of prolonged peace and prosperity. But by 1838 the popular opposition to Mormon proselyting activities, together with the failure of several Mormon business ventures, forced the prophet to seek refuge among his followers in Western Missouri. There a strong missionary organization had been maintained since 1830, in spite of continual persecution.

In vain the Saints had removed farther and farther westward in Missouri, from Jackson County to Clay, and finally to Caldwell County. Preaching and talking against slavery as they did both publicly and privately, they aroused the enmity of the southern slaveholders, and they were driven out of Missouri, not on account of their religious teachings but because of their political doctrines.

Unable to gain protection from either the courts or the state legislature in Missouri, the discouraged Mormons began, in the winter of 1839, a general exodus to the neighborhood of Quincy, Illinois, where they were warmly received.

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In spite of the heavy losses sustained in Missouri and Ohio, the Saints proceeded to purchase half the town of Keokuk, Iowa; the whole of the town of Nashville, six miles above Keokuk; half the town of Montrose, together with 30,000 acres of land; and opposite Montrose, the village of Commerce, on which site was laid out the city of Nauvoo. The word "Nauvoo" comes from the Hebrew, and signifies "beautiful situation for rest".

During the winter of 1840 the Mormon leaders applied to the legislature of Illinois for extensive privileges, including several charters; one for the city of Nauvoo; one for agricultural and manufacturing purposes; one for a university; and one for a military body called the Nauvoo Legion; and one for the civil courts of Nauvoo. Since both the Whigs and Democrats in Illinois were competing for Mormon political support, all these privileges were readily granted.

By the end of 1840, there were at least fifteen thousand people in Nauvoo, many of whom had come from Canada and Europe. One of the first events in the New Zion was the choosing of a temple site — a prominent hilltop on which was to be erected an imposing edifice of glistening white sandstone, costing approximately one million dollars. Everett says: "limestone of a good quality, of a bluish white shade".

The years 1840 to 1844 proved immensely prosperous for the Mormons, both at home and abroad. At the opening of the fourth year, Smith found himself at the height of his power. His followers in Europe and America numbered more than one hundred thousand, while he himself had collected a private fortune of about half a million dollars.

His power and good fortune seem to have warped his judgment, for in February, 1844, he announced himself as candidate for the Presidency of the United States, with his disciple, Sidney Rigdon, as Vice Presidential candidate. This boldness, together with even bolder utterances concerning the manner in which a President should conduct himself, led to renewed persecution at the hands of the surrounding Gentiles.

In the spring of 1844, Wm. Law, a leading Mormon, openly charged the Prophet (Joseph Smith) with an attempt to seduce his wife. (This soon after became the spiritual wife doctrine, and was believed, and even preached to some extent by the leaders of the Mormon Church.) This charge was promptly denied by the Prophet, and Law was denounced in the most bitter terms for an alleged attempt to slander the Prophet.

Summoned by the high tribunal of the Church, Law appeared, refused to retract what he had said, and again avowed its truth, for which he was immediately cut off from the Church. Being a man of considerable influence, Law drew with him a few of the disaffected members of the Church, who were already tired of bowing in humble submission, and paying tribute to the Prophet Joseph.

Among these deserters were Wilson, Francis Higbee, Joseph Higbee, Foster, and others, who determined to put the world in possession of their grievances. During the month of May, these apostate Mormons issued the first and only number of the **Nauvoo Expositor,** an anti-Mormon publication.

It contained a series of charges against Joseph Smith, and the leading men in the church, including bigamy, adultery, larceny, counterfeiting, etc. At a meeting of the city council of Nauvoo, the journal was pronounced a menace and further publication was prohibited.

Acting under orders of the city council with Joseph Smith as mayor, the city marshal raised a force of several hundred men, headed by Gen. Dunham of the Nauvoo Legion, entered the Expositor establishment, pied the type, and destroyed the presses. For this act, the proprietors of the journal obtained at Carthage, Illinois, an order for the arrest of the prophet-mayor.

Thereupon, Smith was taken before the city council of Nauvoo, and after a brief examination was dismissed. This enraged the surrounding Gentile population to such an extent that a mob of from two to three thousand men was formed to aid the Carthage constable "not only to arrest Joe Smith, but to burn his

town and kill every man, woman and child in it."

In an effort to prevent violence, the Governor of Illinois went to Carthage in person. From there he sent a message to the prophet, asking him to proceed quietly to Carthage, in order to demonstrate his willingness to abide by the law. Both the Governor and the people pledged protection to the Mormon leader.

On June 24, 1844, Joseph and his brother Hyrum, the members of the council, and all others demanded, proceeded to Carthage, gave themselves up, and were charged with riot. All were released, but Joseph and Hyrum were immediately re-arrested on charge of treason. The excuse for this act seems to be that Smith had called out the Nauvoo Legion, had declared Nauvoo to be under martial law, and had then given orders to resist the posse comitatus sent by the Governor.

On the night of June 27, 1844, after the Governor had once more pledged the safety of the prisoners and had departed, a mob of a hundred men, with painted faces, surrounded the jail and shot the two Mormon leaders.

Doubtless it was thought that this act would put an end to Mormonism; but rather, it gave more stability than ever to the Mormon cause, and "Joseph Smith the martyr became a greater power in the land than Joseph Smith the prophet."

III

Who was Joseph H. Jackson? From the History of Hancock County, Illinois by Th. Gregg, Chicago, Chapman, 1880, at page 328, we glean the following:

"Mention has been made of Joseph H. Jackson. Mr. J. was an adventurer of fine appearance and gentlemanly manners, who appeared in the county during the troubles; went to Nauvoo and became quite intimate with the prophet and the leaders; afterwards turned against them, went to Warsaw and published a pamphlet claiming to be an exposure of Mormonism and the evil purposes and practices of its chiefs. This pamphlet made many serious charges against Smith and his adherents — charges of murder and conspiracy, of counterfeiting, debauchery, spiritual-wifery, etc.;

and claimed that he had gone among them with the sole view of ingratiating himself and then exposing them. His expose was of much the same character as that of General Bennett. As in the case of the latter, much of his statement was corroborated by circumstances, and much lacked confirmation. The equivocal position in which he stood, it is proper to say, tended to lessen the confidence of the public in his statements, and his little book made but slight impression. The Mormons charged that he was an adventurer of the worst class, and came there to practice his trade of counterfeiting, etc., and quarrelled with the prophet and the authorities because he was detected and exposed."

The mention that was made of Joseph H. Jackson in Gregg's History includes the following, (p. 302):

"Sidney Rigdon, who taking their statements to be true, had more reason than any to come out and denounce the prophet, still refused, till after the prophet's death, and Grigham and the Twelve had thrown him overboard. Did Rigdon know of Smith's villainies, after fifteen years' association with him? These seceders gave countenance to Joseph H. Jackson, in his exposures, a newcomer, who, as he says, had only been in Smith's confidence a little while; and Jackson published that Smith had acknowledged to him that he was a counterfeiter, that he had instigated murder and that the Mormon Bible and golden plates were frauds. It is more likely that Jackson would have gained the prophet's confidence than they?"

Then there is a long quotation from the Nauvoo Neighbor for June 17, 1884 which is copied in its entirety in Gregg's History, and which mentions Jackson. At pages 304 and 305 of Gregg appear certain extracts from a regular session of the Nauvoo City Council for June 8, 1844, which contain the following:

"Councilor H. Smith referred to J. H. Jackson's coming to this city, etc. Mayor said Wm. Law had offered Jackson $500.00 to kill him.

"Councilor H. Smith continued Jackson, told him, he (Jackson) meant to have his daughter; and threaten-

ed him if he made any resistance. Jackson related to him a dream; that Joseph and Hyrum were opposed to him, but that he would execute his purposes; that Jackson had laid a plan with four or five persons to kidnap his daughter, and threatened to shoot any one that should come near, after he had got her into the skiff; that Jackson was engaged in trying to make bogus, which was his principal business, — referred to the revelation read to the High Council of the Church, which has caused so much talk about a multiplicity of wives; that said revelation was in answer to a question concerning things which transpired in former days, and had no reference to the present time.

"Washington Peck sworn: — Said soon after Joseph H. Jackson came here, he came to witness to borrow money, which witness loaned him, and took some jewelry as security. Soon after, a man from across the river came after the jewelry; Jackson had stolen the jewelry from him. At another time, wanted to get money of witness; asked witness if he would do anything dishonorable to get a living. Witness said he would not. Jackson said witness was a damned fool, for he could get a living a deal easier than he was doing by making bogus, and some men high in the Church were engaged in the business. Witness asked if it was Joseph. 'No,' said Jackson, 'I dare not tell it to Joseph.' Witness understood him the Laws were engaged in it. Jackson said he would be the death of witness, if he ever went to Joseph or any one else to tell what he had said.

"Lorenzo Wasson, sworn: — Said Joseph H. Jackson told witness that bogus-making was going on in the city; but it was too damned small business. Wanted witness to help him procure money for the General (Smith) was afraid to go into it, and with $500 he could get an engraving for bills on the bank of Missouri, and one on the State of New York, and could make money; said many times witness did not know him; believed the General had been telling witness something. 'God damn him, if he has I will kill him,' — swore he would kill any man that should prove a traitor to him. Jackson said if he could get a company of men

to suit him, he would go into the frontiers and live by highway robbery; had got sick of the world."

Following the murders of the Smiths, Joseph H. Jackson was selected as an example for arrest, and a writ for his arrest was issued by a Nauvoo Justice of the Peace. According to Gregg (page 327): "An agreement was entered into by which Williams and Sharp (Jackson being sick) agreed to give themselves up on condition that they be taken before Judge Thomas for examination, with some other conditions as to bail, etc." From the standpoint of a lawyer who has handled a goodly number of criminal cases, I would say that this is rather a handy arrangement.

The Nauvoo Neighbor (the Mormon paper) as reported in the Sangamo Journal for October 31, 1844, had this to say:

> "Before the troops arrived in this city, Murray McConnell, Esq. agent for the Governor, came into Hancock county and instituted proceedings against some of the perpetrators of the Carthage murder. T. C. Sharp, one of the number when legally called upon, refused submission to the laws of the land. The officer in charge of the writs reported that the criminals had fled from the State, whereupon the Governor issued the following document:

A PROCLAMATION

By the Governor of the State of Illinois

Whereas Levi Williams, Thomas C. Sharp and Joseph H. Jackson, have been legally charged with having committed the crime of murder, and have fled from this State:

I do therefore offer a reward of two hundred dollars for the apprehension of each one of the said persons to be paid upon the certificate of the Sheriff of Hancock county, that they, or any of them, have been delivered to him.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and the seal of said State, this 27th day of September, A. D. 1844.

Thomas Ford

This proclamation was not circulated, however in order to give the Sheriff a further chance to take the fugitives from justice, in their "exits and entrances" from Warsaw to Churchville, etc.

On Monday night about 10 o'clock a messenger arrived with a letter from the Governor from which the following is an extract:

"Warsaw, Sept. 30, 1844

Sir, — I write to inform you that Williams and Sharpe have surrendered, and will be sent to Quincy for trial, Jackson has not come over, and is so very sick that we could do nothing with him if we had him."

In any event, Jackson was never tried, and disappeared from the scene. None of the persons who were brought to trial was found guilty.

Now that you ask me, after reading the foregoing, I will say that I feel that Jackson was a prevaricating opportunist of about the same stature as Wm. H. Daniels; that Joseph Smith was a revealed religion opportunist who traded on the credulity of his zealot followers; that Ford, Governor of Illinois, could have been an opportunist but missed his chance. At least it's history.

IV

I have made a few corrections in preparing the copy for the printer, consisting primarily of corrections in spelling. If I may say it without presumption, I have followed Milo M. Quaife's statement in one of the Lakeside Classics: I have prepared the copy for the printer as if it were submitted to me as an editor in the first instance.

The following is a list of corrections:

moralists for moralist - p. 3
wagon for waggon - p. 5
villain for villian - pp. 5, 6, 8, 9, 10
referred for refered - p. 5
really for realy - p. 7
pertinacity for pertenacity - p. 7
apostle for appostle - p. 10
hazards for hazzards - p. 11

hypocrites for hypocrits - p. 13
vision for vission - p. 13
Elliott for Elliot - p. 15
stopped for stoped - p. 16
route for rout - p. 29
planned for planed - p. 30

One error I did not correct. The reader will note that on p. 7 of the original there is a reference to the "Chavis" murders, and on p. 8 of the original there are references to the "Chavi's" and also to the Chavis' " murders.

In each instance this should be "Chavez". The Kansas State Historical Society Collections for 1905-1906, volume 9, pp. 552-53 contains a note on this affair, saying, in part:

"In the year 1843 there assembled in Westport (Missouri) a number of men giving out that they were going to the borders of Texas to fight the Mexicans. Word had reached the borders of Missouri that Don Antonio Jose Chavez, a rich Mexican, was on his way to the Missouri river, at Independence, to trade and these men had determined to meet and rob him.

"They came upon Chavez in camp on the banks of a little stream generally known as Little Arkansas river, in the present state of Kansas, killing him and robbing his train.

"As the news had preceded Chavez that he was on his way to the Missouri with a great amount of money, so the information of the crime committed by these men preceded them on their return. They were met by a body of Jackson county citizens near Council Grove, Kansas, among whom was Geo. Buchanan, sheriff of Jackson county, and some ten of their number captured and a part of the money taken from Chavez was recovered."

Further reference to the Chavez murder can be found in the Mississippi Valley Historical Review, volume 12, (September, 1925), pp. 235-36; W. E. Connelley's **Standard History of Kansas and Kansans,** volume 1, p. 120; and Gregg's **Commerce of the Prairies,** XX, pp. 226 et seq. and 276 et seq.

The principal reason I did not correct the original is that I thought it might be interesting to see the manner in which Joseph H. Jackson coped with phonetic spelling.

V

My brief summary of Mormon activities leading up to the events which caused Jackson to write his Narrative is an exegesis of many writings listed in the bibliography following. I would like to thank Grant Dean of the Chicago Historical Society, Clyde C. Walton and Margaret A. Flint of the Illinois State Historical Society, for their help.

Archibald Hanna of the Yale University Library Western Americana collection has assisted me in some research.

I have taken from the following: Edward Bonney - The Banditti of the Prairies; Thomas Ford - A History of Illinois, Chicago, 1854; Th. Gregg - History of Hancock County, Chicago, 1885; Publications Illinois State Historical Society No. 10, 1905, pp. 183-193; same, No. 11, pp. 88-102; same, No. 33, pp. 65-74; Transactions of the Illinois State Historical Society, 1926, "Mormon Life and Doctrines in Illinois and Utah 1840 - 1860" by Willis G. Swartz; House of Representatives (Illinois) 15th Assem. 1st Session, Dec. 10, 1846, Mormon Difficulties, Report of Gov. Ford; Illinois State Journal, Oct. 31, 1844.

Karl Yost
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Morrison, Illinois

A NARRATIVE

OF THE

ADVENTURES AND EXPERIENCE

OF

JOSEPH H. JACKSON,

IN NAUVOO.

DISCLOSING THE DEPTHS OF MORMON VILLAINY.

Warsaw, Illinois, August, 1844.

INTRODUCTION.

The following narrative of my experience in Nauvoo, is submitted to the public in hopes that it may call attention to the character of the iniquities practiced in that city, in the name of religion. I am aware, that such is the nature of the disclosures made in the following pages — such the blackness of the record, that it will be difficult to induce men to believe that such depravity could possibly exist. By what follows, however, it will be perceived that my motives in going to Nauvoo, were to gain the confidence of the Prophet, that I might discover and disclose to the world his real designs and the nature of his operations. To do this, I was obliged to practice dissimulation and to seem to be a fit tool for him to work with. Some may say that such conduct on my part was not excusable; but let such bethink them that the secret designs and workings of this Heaven daring wretch, could never have been made public only by such means as I employed. The end, justified the means. Many are the instances on record, in which bands of robbers or counterfeiters, had so organized themselves that they were enabled to baffle the closest scrutiny of the law, and in such instances, it has been a common practice, especially in Europe, to employ men to become seeming accomplices, that they might thus be enabled to disclose the information necessary for a conviction. This was my object, and the inducement that prompted my action, will be found in what follows.

I tell nothing more than what I have seen and heard in Nauvoo. I have colored nothing, nor set down aught in malice. Many of my statements can be corroborated by abundance of testimony. I am content however, at present, to give my story and if contradicted, I can follow it up by proof, such as no reasonable man will doubt.

The question may be asked, how is it possible for so corrupt a man as Joe Smith is represented to be, could ever have attained so complete control as he unquestionably had, over the minds of the honest portion of his followers? I confess the question puzzles me. No man, who has never seen the influance of blind fanaticism over the human mind, can imagine the effect it will produce. There were hundreds of men in Nauvoo, who, I believe, from what I have seen, had Joe Smith commanded them to commit murder in the name of the Lord, they would have believed that they were doing God's service in obeying him. I will leave the philosophy of this, for the consideration of moralists; my business is to state facts.

There is one thing peculiar, that will be observed by the attentive reader, and that is that all Joe Smith's commands whether in public or private were delivered 'in the name of the Lord.' In public, before his people, he spoke 'in the name of the Lord,' and in his secret councils, if he desired the assassination of his enemy, it was 'the will of the Lord', that the persecutors of the Church of Jesus Christ, should be put out of the way, and

then in 'the name of the Lord' he concocted the vilest plans for murder. Thus assassination, robbery and seduction were carried on by this blasphemous wretch, 'in the name of the Most High.'

The writing of the following pages, was commenced previous to the late disturbances in Hancock County, which resulted in the death of the two Smiths. I regret that the publication was not made while they were alive. As it is however, I trust that what is said, will convince the world, that whatever may be thought of the manner of their death, nevertheless they richly deserved to die. My experience with the Mormons, was but for a short period, yet such corruption and depravity as I witnessed, I did not before believe existed on the face of the Earth.

NARRATIVE.

Before visiting Nauvoo, I had heard much of this famous city, and the character of its inhabitants. Such was the contrariety of reports afloat, that it seemed difficult to form any settled opinion concerning the Prophet or his followers. Where I had been however, the opinion seemed to prevail, that they were a pack of abanoned scoundrels, leagued together for the basest of purposes.

In passing down the Mississippi in the fall of 1842, I determined to stop in Nauvoo. My object was partly to find business and partly to gratify curiosity. With the location of the city I was delighted; but as frequent descriptions have already gone abroad, I will not stop here to expatiate either on its beauties, or the advantages of its position.

At the time I landed, (10th of October, 1842) there was great trouble amongst the saints, in consequence of a demand having been made by the Governor of Missouri, for the Prophet, for being accessory to the attempted assassination of Gov. Boggs. My visit to the city at that time, (being a stranger and out of business), induced the people as I afterwards learned, to believe, that I was a spy from Missouri, in quest of evidence against Smith. Many men, who I have since learned belonged to the Danite Band, visited me at my boarding house and asked all manner of questions in relation to my business in the city. Deeming these enquiries impertinent, I did not condescend to answer them; but they did not cease their importunities. At length, being disgusted and indignant at their proceedings, I abruptly cut their acquaintance. After this, I observed that I was closely watched; but did not know the reason, until informed by a friend, that the Prophet thought me a spy. I determined then to give no satisfaction, but to pursue a silent policy.

Some time in November I was helping to haul some goods from the river, that belonged to Messrs. Rollison and Finch. I was in

company with Mr. Finch and a man from Keokuk, who was owner of the horses and wagon. We had hauled one load and were returning for the second. As we crossed the bottom, between the Temple and the river, a man standing at about eight rods distance, (it being after dark,) called me by name. I immediately jumped from the wagon, thinking that it was a man who wished me to get some goods stored that had called me. Finch immediately followed. When I got within about five feet of the villain as he proved to be, he extended his arm at full length and said, "damn you, I give you what you deserve" and fired a pistol. The ball passed my head, and so stunned me, that for a few minutes I scarcely knew what I was about, but on coming to, I could scarcely see, for my face and eyes were so much burned with powder. Finch, at the time the shot was fired, was about one rod behind. He seeing me stagger, immediately pursued the fellow, but soon found that he was no match for him in speed, and gave up the pursuit. Finch and myself agreed to keep this matter a secret, that we might be able to discover some clue to the assassin. I thought that if we did not mention it, and we heard of it from others, we would be able then to trace the matter to its fountainhead. When however this idea became hopeless, I mentioned it to my friends, who seemed to understand the object of the maneuver.

Shortly after this I left Nauvoo and went to Carthage to spend the winter. During the winter, I employed my time in hunting, but I heard frequently, complaints against the thieving Mormons. In the spring I determined to find out whether Joe Smith was in reality as bad a man as he was represented, and whether he had in reality instigated the villain who attempted my life in Nauvoo.

I therefore stated to Harmon T. Wilson, Deputy Sheriff, that I intended to visit Nauvoo, and if any man could, I would find out Joe's plans and measures and at a proper time, if I found him to be as base as represented and as I believed him to be, disclose all to the world. In forming this resolution, I was actuated by a desire on the one hand, to revenge myself on him if he were guilty of the attempt on my life, and by a romantic love of adventure on the other. I possessed every advantage in person and countenance to accomplish my object, as well as a full share of experience in the ways of the world.

Accordingly in the month of March, I went to Nauvoo, and after staying there a few days, I visited Joe, and gave him to understand that I had important business with him. He invited me into his private room, and there in the presence of Eber C. Kimball, I disclosed the nature of my business, and made him believe that I could be of great service to him. I stated that I was a fugitive from Macon City, Georgia, and wanted **protection.** This

seemed to tickle his fancy wonderfully, and throwing off restraint, he said that I was just the man he wanted, and referred me to the conduct of Joab unto David. He then said, that he would make any man rich, who would be unto him as was Joab to David, and obey his commands in the name of God, that he might fulfil his prophecies. He then commenced an argument, to make me believe that this was right and lawful in the sight of God, and declared himself a godly man and a Prophet endowed with power from on high. I then remarked, that as to his religion, I cared nothing about it, for I did not believe in the supremacy of a God. Here he looked me very steadfastly and significantly in the eye; but I flinched not. I then told him that I was a desperate man, and could release O. P. Rockwell, who was at that time confined in prison in Missouri, for his attempt on the life of Gov. Boggs. Well said he, "if you will release Porter, and kill old Boggs, I will give you three thousand dollars." Kimball heard this conversation throughout, but I have no hope that he could be made to acknowledge its truth, so deeply is he leagued with Joe in his villainy.

Joe, after this offer, made a proposition to give me an outfit to Missouri; and said that he would soon furnish me with a splendid horse, saddle, bridle and all the necessary accoutrements for the journey. To all this Kimball assented. The second morning after this, I met Joe again. He told me he had traded a town lot with Elder Grant for a splendid black horse, and also that he had procured a saddle and bridle for the trip. Now said he: "Go and perform in the name of God, and let the little fellow out of jail for my heart bleeds for him." I took possession that day of the horse saddle and bridle, and the next day, Joe brought to my boarding house a pair of saddle bags, concealed under his cloak. This expedition was kept a profound secret. People in general supposed that I had bought the horse of Joe, and had no idea that there was any understanding between us.

After having this horse in my possession for two or three days, Joe and I took a ride up to Edward Hunter's, where he borrowed one hundred dollars, and I drew his note for it on demand. Hunter, at this time, was absent. While there, Mrs. Hunter brought the Bible to Joe, and wished him to explain some passage in the 3d chapt. of Hosea, in relation to the adultress. He replied that he would call at another time and translate it for her, for which she thanked him kindly. After this, I learned that the scripture named by Mrs. Hunter, was one of the proofs of the correctness of the spiritual wife doctrine, of which, the reader will learn more hereafter.

After conversing a little while, we arose to depart, and Joe gave Mrs. Hunter a very sanctimonius blessing. We then got on our horses and rode up the hill where we were met by the Holy Patriarch

Hyrum, on his white horse. He informed Joe, that brother somebody, (I do not recollect the name) was sick, and they were sent for to lay hands on him, "for he was sick unto death." I rode to the house of the invalid with them. We entered the room, and I put on a very grave countenance, while they both laid hands on the sick man, and Hyrum made a long sanctimonious prayer. As we left the house, Joe pronounced a blessing on it and all that were within. We then again mounted our horses — Hyrum went home; and Joe and I took a ride of some five miles on the prairie. All the way out and back, he pressed me to kill Boggs; and said that he would pay me well for it. Finally, I gave him a strong hint that I was in for the business — knowing as I did, that if I hestitated, he would suspect me of treachery, and thus, all my plans in relation to him would be frustrated. I therefore carried on my game by showing a bold front. All the while, he was urging the killing of Boggs, he insisted that it was the will of God, and in God's name he offered me a reward for his blood. This was all done with an air of sanctimonious gravity, and with a look of innocence, that would make one almost believe that the Prophet really thought, that he was acting under the command of Heaven. I was utterly astonished to see this man concoct the most hellish plans for murder and revenge, and yet, with pertinacity insist that it was right in the sight of God. And here, (if I may be permitted to pause) lay the whole secret of Joe Smith's success. He had a singularly unmeaning countenance, that was no index of his real character — he had so long practiced duplicity, that there was scarcely a compunctious feeling left in his bosom, and he had no scruples in regard to the means he should employ, when he had an end to attain; Hence it was, that he had no hesitancy in prostituting every thing sacred, for the purposes of lust, cupidity, revenge or power.

The next morning after this adventure, I took my departure for Missouri. The weather was very bad, the streams high, and I suffered very much with the wet and cold. After a journey of eight days I arrived at Independence, where I put up with a Mr. Knowlton. At this time, the Chavis murderers were arrested, and I saw them in the custody of the sheriff, while on their way to the jail. While these men were being put into the prison, I entered it for the purpose of seeing Rockwell, and that I might give a straight account of myself. I found him with a pair of shackles on, and a lion skin over coat — looked rather uncouth. There were however, so many in prison at this time, that I had no opportunity to converse with him. My hope was, that by representing myself as being in the employ of Joe, and convincing him of that fact, to draw from him a confession that might be useful for the purposes which Harmon T. Wilson and myself had in view.

Previous to my leaving Carthage for Nauvoo, I had learned from Harmon T. Wilson, that he was in correspondence with Mr. Reynolds, sheriff of Jackson county, Missouri, in relation to another demand from the Governor of Missouri, for Joe Smith. An arrangement had been entered into, that a requisition should be made on the return of Mr. Wilson, from a trip which he contemplated to take to the south, immediately on the opening of navigation. Had I thought at the time I left Mr. Wilson, of this trip to Missouri, I should have brought a letter from him to Mr. Reynolds, which would have disclosed to the latter my true character. As matters however were, I found myself placed in a situation where I could do no good towards the great object I had in view. There was great excitement in Independence, in consequence of the Chavi's murders — many persons were arriving to join the Oregon emigrating expedition; and every stranger appeared to be looked on with distrust and suspicion. Mr. Reynolds, was so busily engaged in arresting the Chavis' murderers, that I could get no opportunity to make his acquaintance, and fix upon a concerted plan of operations in relation to Smith. Seeing the impossibility of effecting what I desired, and having no idea of attempting what Joe sent me for, I resolved to return to Nauvoo. Previous to taking my departure however, I wrote to Mr. Wilson, and directed my letter to "Point Coupee", Louisiana; supposing that it would reach him there, but it appears that he never received it. Having been in Independence, one week without effecting anything, I set out on my journey. My trip back was very pleasant — the roads having become settled and the weather dry. I struck the Mississippi at Churchville, crossed to Warsaw, and thence journeyed to Nauvoo. On my arrival, I rode to the house of the Prophet, where all seemed glad to see me, and "sister Emma," Joe's wife, received me very cordially, the Prophet not being at home. Since I have introduced this lady to the reader, I will mention that although she is acquainted with all the villainous plans and operations of Joe, yet she should be looked on with pity rather than scorn. I believe she knew no guile until Joe schooled her to wink at his rascality, and compelled her by threats to aid in carrying out his measures. Indeed, he has frequently said that it was with the greatest difficulty that he could prevail on Emma, in many cases, to hold her peace, and not expose him to the world.

In order to amuse myself until the Prophet's return I strolled over the city, and was surprised to find so much attention paid to me; and that many, especially the women, knew all about my expedition to Missouri. This convinced me, that Joe could not keep his secrets, but I did not know at that time he had so many wives to whom to disclose them. When night came on, the Prophet return-

ed. He seemed glad to see me, and taking me by the hand led me into a private room, and commenced his enquiries about Porter Rockwell. He fixed his eyes steadily on me, while I gave an account of my stewardship, and suffered me to proceed about half through without interruption, when he suddenly exclaimed. "Oh! did you kill old Boggs?" No! said I, he was not at home; and this was the fact, as good luck would have it, and it gave me an excellent excuse. Joe seemed to regret this very much; but soon returned to Rockwell's case, and prophecied "in the name of the Lord" that he would after passing through the fiery ordeal of the Missouri tribulation, come safely home. He said he knew that they could prove nothing against him, for he was a true man, and they could not make him own a word of it if we was guilty. Silence ensued for a few minutes, when Joe suddenly looked me full in the eye, and after gazing steadily for a few moments said. "Jackson you are the first man that I have ever met that I could not look down." Said I, "do you like a bold eye?" He replied that he did and then commenced a panegyric on himself. He said that he was a good and godly man, and that he had never known wrong in his life, for in all his acts, he was guided and protected by the power of the Holy Ghost — that the Missourians had tried to kill him, but rifle balls could have no effect on him, for he had been shot at thirteen times in Missouri, and the balls bounded back as hail from the side of a house; and for this reason he knew the Holy Ghost was with him, and that he truly was the greatest man on the earth. To this I replied that it was altogther unnecessary for him to preach rascality to me, in the name of the Lord, for the more he did it the less I should think of him. I then related what had occurred to me the previous fall in Nauvoo, giving him a full account of my being shot at, not letting him know however, that I suspected him or cared anything about it. My object was to learn from his own lips, by seeming indifferent to the matter, whether he in reality had been black - hearted enough to send a man to perform so dastardly an act. He however pretended perfect innocence, and could divine no reason why I had been shot at. Here ended our conversation for the evening, and Joe took me up stairs to my chamber. As he bade me good night, he pronounced the blessing of God on my head, and said that he never loved a stranger as he did me, and that he had trusted me further for a short acquaintance, than he had ever done any man before; but said he "you must kill old Boggs and I will build you up in the world."

In order to fathom the depths of Joe's villainy, I was obliged to appear to him as an abandoned wretch and outcast. When I told him I was a fugitive from justice and had committed the darkest crimes it seemed to give him the greatest confidence, and he im-

mediately run away with the idea that he could through me fulfil his prophecies, and then on the top of it he would urge me to carry out his measures "in the name of the Lord."

About three days after my return from Missouri, Joe had his carriage brought out, and invited me to take a ride with him. I soon found that there was something wrong, and when we reached his Prairie Farm, or in other words the farm of Apostle Lot, who tills it for him, I learned the secret of his depression. He took me one side and began to talk to me about his wife, and he told me he thought I had better get another boarding house, (I was then boarding with him) for he thought that his wife loved me more than she did him. He at the same time cursed William Law, for trying to seduce his wife, which in my opinion was false. He continued to talk about his wife until my anger got the better of my prudence, and I then told him, he must stop such conversation to me, and that I would not hear him rail out on so worthy a woman as I believed Emma to be, and threatened to knock him down if he did not cease. I told him he was a d--d rascal, and he thought every other man as black-hearted as himself. At the same time I accused him of living in fornication with other women, and that he especially should hold his peace in regard to Emma. To these aspersions he made no angry retort, but would not at that time own that he lived in fornication with other women, and said he was a godly man in every act, but that Emma was jealous of him. He then asked me if I had ever known him to do anything wrong with the women. I replied that I had not; but that in my opinion any man that was base enough to concoct schemes for pillage and murder as he had done, would lie with his mother if she would permit him. He then said it was no use to talk to me. I answered that it was not for I had some experience in the ways of the world. We then re-entered the carriage and rode to the city. Joe went home, and I went to Snyder's where I had boarded previous to my trip to Missouri, and took up lodgings.

About two days after this Joe came down the street on horse back. I met him and told him I thought of going south, and was very sorry I could do nothing for him in Missouri, and made him believe it. He then pressed me to stay, and enter into the manufacture of bogus, to which I consented, hoping to be able to get a clue to another branch of his villainy. Shortly after this, he sent $200, to St. Louis for German plate, and went to work in a remote part of the town to fit up for operation. The details concerning the Bogus operation in the city I will give in a subsequent part of this narrative.

About the time this Bogus business commenced, H. T. Wilson returned from the South, and in company with him was Mr. Rey-

nolds the agent of Missouri, bearing a requisition from the Governor of that State. When he returned, he heard reports in circulation that I had actually joined the Mormons, which so much diminished his confidence in me, that he did not come to see me, as he promised he would do. At this time, Joe was on a visit to Dixon's Ferry, and Wilson and Reynolds proceeded hither, reporting as they journeyed that they were Mormon preachers. In the mean time, word of what was on foot, reached Nauvoo directly from Springfield; from whom I do not know; but at all events, Stephen Markham and William Clayton were dispatched to Dixon, to warn Joe, or to bring back word of what took place. In a few days Clayton returned, bringing news that Joe was arrested, and an order immediately issued from Hyrum, for parties to start out to rescue Joe. One party, I was placed in and was compelled to go to prevent suspicion on myself. It consisted of twenty-five men. — Our directions were to proceed directly to Dixon and release Joe at all hazards. I acted as pilot, and Doctor Foster proceeded ahead to reconnoiter. We were all armed with side arms. On the prairie above La Harpe, I led the company astray purposely that Wilson and Reynolds might get ahead. We all got lost, and wandered about for a day, without making any progress on our journey. In the mean time, another party that had proceeded directly up the river, met Joe, Wilson and Reynolds, all in the custody of the Sheriff of Lee County, proceeding Southwards. They escorted Joe to the City, and would not suffer the officers to take any other direction. This fact we learned and returned to the City. At Nauvoo, the writ of **Habeas Corpus**, granted at Dixon, was tried before the Municipal Court, and Joe released. Wilson and Reynolds then effected their escape from the City. Seeing all hopes of bringing Joe to justice baffled for the present, I determined to continue my game.

A few days after this, I had a private conversation with Joe, and he again wished that I should go to Missouri to serve Rockwell. I consented, and he fitted me out with a horse and sulky for my journey. My directions were to go to Liberty and get the pistol that Rockwell shot Boggs with — it being in the hands of a widow woman living in that town, who Rockwell had deposited it with. Rockwell, feared that, it might be discovered and identified, and produced in evidence against him; and therefore his wife on her return from Independence, requested Joe to have this instrument secured.

On the morning of the fourth, I started on my journey. Joe said that it was an excellent day to fool the people with, for they would think I had gone to celebrate the day at some place in the neighborhood. I crossed the river at Montrose, from thence I went

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to St. Francisville, and from thence to Monticello. About five miles beyond this town, my horse became so restive from the biting of the flies, that he commenced running and kicking — the lines broke, and presently the shafts, and I saved myself by a timely leap. The horse took a circle on the prairie, and soon came back near the point from whence he started, when I caught him, and rode back to St. Francisville, where I hired a man to bring in the sulky. I returned to Nauvoo. I neglected to mention that when starting, Joe told me to sell the horse and sulky, and board until I could kill Gen. Donethan; but my plan was to get the pistol, and what secrets I could from the old woman at Liberty, and advise Gen. Donethan of what was going on in relation to him. My luck however, was bad, and my plans failed. On returning Joe wished me to go to Missouri by water, but wanted me to pledge myself to kill Gen. Donethan. I feigned sickness, and by this means escaped further importunity,

In the mean time, the Bogus establishment had been moderately fitted up, and Joe suggested the idea of buying Rockwell out of prison in the fall, or just as soon as he could get enough manufactured to do it. Day after day passed, and I managed my card so well, that I was enabled to probe still deeper into the secret measures and transactions of this wretch. He frequently in our walks, which we took nearly every day, pressed me to join the church and marry; and to induce me to take a wife, he took me to houses where he kept his spiritual wives, and introduced me to them all. On leaving, he would urge me to take my choice, or at any rate to take two or three **spiritual** wives if I did not wish to marry. I was determined however, to form no connection with any woman, that my actions might in all things be perfectly free, and that they might hold no rod over my head.

As I have mentioned the subject of spiritual wives, I will in this place, give the reader some idea of the system. The doctrine taught, is called the "spirit of Elijah," and is kept a profound secret from the people at large, and is only permitted to be known to those, to whom it is given to know the "fullness of the kingdom," in other words, the choice spirits who surround Joe, and aid in carrying his secret measures. The doctrine is found on the 3d Chapter of Hosea, — several passages from the writings of Solomon and David, and the passage "whatsoever ye bind on Earth shall be bound in Heaven." From these scripture passages, (with which I am not sufficiently familiar to quote) aided by revelation from Joe, as respects their meaning and construction, the doctrine is derived that there is no harm in a man having more wives than one, provided his extra wives are married to him spiritually. A spiritual wife is a woman, who by revelation is bound up to a man, in body

parts and passions, both for this life and for all eternity; whereas the union of a carnal wife and her husband ceases at death. Whenever the scripture forbids a man from taking to himself more wives than one, Joe made it refer to **carnal** and not spiritual wives; and would frequently quote the writings of David and Solomon to prove his position. Having an explanation of the doctrine, let us see the application. Joe had in his employ certain old women, called "Mothers in Israel," such as Mrs. Tailor, old Madam Durfee, and old Madam Sessions, in whom the people have great confidence, but in fact, they are the most depraved hypocrites on Earth. If Joe wishes to make a spiritual wife of a certain young lady, he would send one of these women to her. The old women, would tell the young lady, that she had, had a vision, in which it was revealed to her that she was to be sealed up to Joe, (or his friend as the case might be) as a spiritual wife, to be his in time and eternity. This would astonish the young innocent, but scripture would soon be resorted to, to prove the correctness of the doctrine, and that it was proper in the sight of the Lord. Soon after this Joe would appear, and tell the lady that the Lord had revealed to him that Mrs. so & so, had had a vision concerning her, and had been to see her. Not suspecting any collusion the young lady would be astonished, and being strong in the faith, she could have no doubt but that Joe spoke by authority of God. He would then ply his arguments, and with the utmost sanctity speak "in the name of the Lord" and say that at such a time, and at such a place it had been revealed to him that she should be his or his friend's, in time and eternity. If she objected he would quote his scripture and his revelations, and thus by playing on her superstitious credulity, and artfully at the same time inflaming her passions he seldom failed of his object. Being once successful, he held the fear of exposure over her as a rod to prevent rebellion from his allegiance. When, as happened in the cases of Miss Martha Brotherton and Miss Nancy Rigdon, his overtures were rejected with disdain and exposure threatened he would set a hundred hell hounds on them, to destroy their reputations. This is a specimen of the mode and manner of Joe in carrying his vile measures of seduction. To the truth of what I have here said, there are hundreds who can testify, and I have no doubt would do it, if they could be protected from the revenge of the hellish clan, which still exists in Nauvoo. The extent to which this abomination was carried may be imagined from the fact that Joe Smith boasted to me, that he in this manner from the commencement of his career had seduced 400 women.

But to return to the Bogus establishment. The first attempts at Bogus making were rather rough; but in October, Messrs. Barton and Eaton, came on from Buffalo, having been sent by one of Joe's

emissaries, and brought with them a splendid press and all the necessary tools and materials for operation. The press was put up in the south east room, up stairs, of the house formerly occupied by Joe, being the same room where the holy order had previously met. The business was then rushed ahead in good earnest, and an excellent specimen of base coin produced. Soon the city was flooded with this money and a report was put in circulation that Bogus manufactures were at work in the city. Joe had given out that the room occupied by the press was rented to Messrs. Barton and Eaton, who were mechanics, and were making drafts for the machinery, of a factory which they contemplated erecting. The press continued to run until they had manufactured about $350,000. The intention was to keep the press running and purchase a large amount of stock, but being forced to move it, by a circumstance which I shall presently relate, Joe concluded to wait until spring when the large emigration which was expected would afford a better chance to operate. About half of the money manufactured was put in circulation in Hancock county, and the balance sent east, or passed off to transient persons. All the twelve Apostles except Orson Pratt and Eber C. Kimball, were engaged in this business, and frequently visited the room where the press was, and took turns in working it. Hyrum, at the time the press was in opperation had a lame knee and could not get out of the house, but Joe and myself frequently visited him and discussed measures for raising the wind to purchase more stock. Joe, told me that in Ohio, he, Dr. Boynton, Lyman Wight, Oliver Cowdry and Hyrum, were engaged with others in a Bogus establishment on Licking Creek, but that their operations were cut short by the bursting of the Kirtland Bank.

While the press was suspended in its operations, a man by the name of Brown, came to Nauvoo, and sold to Joe a quantity of counterfeit ten dollar Yates County bills, for twenty dollars per hundred. Joe and Hyrum have been frequently seen with their hands full of these bills, by many persons in Nauvoo, and by them the whole country was flooded. There is not a merchant in the city but knows this fact and also that there has been a large quantity of Bogus in circulation. The first who detected the counterfeit paper money, were Holdridge, Gilman, & Co., of the New York Store. The large amount of spurious money afloat, caused a great excitement in the city, and it became a common talk amongst the most wealthy class, who were not afraid to speak their minds. The agitation of the subject, very much offended His Holiness, and he to save himself, railed out in his characteristic style, and pronounced all the curses of God on the heads of these persons, who were in fact the most substantial men in the city: such as the two Laws,

Dr. Foster, F. M. Foster, C. L. Higbee and Mr. Cole. These men, he accused of being guilty of all kinds of crime, especially of counterfeiting. This was all done to kill their influence, and in the hope that by raising the cry "stop thief," he would turn suspicion from himself.

I have stated above, that the Bogus Press was in operation in Joe's old house. At that time, I had laid my plans to give word to Harmon T. Wilson and urge him to bring a **posse** down suddenly on the city and surprise the apostles at work at the Bogus Press: but about this time, Avery was kidnapped by a party from Missouri aided by some citizens of Illinois and carried into Missouri. This, Avery, was one of the gang of Mormon horsethieves, that infest the whole country. Joe was exceedingly indignant at this summary mode of proceeding, against one of his friends, and arrests were determined on. Accordingly writs were got out and one man by the name of Elliot, living in Green Plains, was taken and brought to the city, charged with being a kidnapper. This proceeding aroused the whole country, and a report was spread in the city, that the Missourians, and the people of Warsaw and Green Plains were coming to rescue Elliott. Joe, became greatly alarmed and removed the Bogus Press. In consequence of this alarm, the city Council was called, and raised a city police of 40 horse and 40 footmen in the pay of the city, which was placed under the sole direction of Joe, and sworn to execute his orders. This police was kept in pay for several days and disbanded to be called out at any time occasion required.

At this time, I was forced into an adventure which was near ending tragically. Information was obtained by Joe, that a man by the name of Richardson, who lived about nine miles back of Montrose, Iowa, was going to Missouri, to testify against Avery, who was shortly to have his trial. He and a boy named Childs, were the material witnesses to prove his guilt, and Joe determined to secure them. Accordingly, Joe selected several of his Danite Band and placed Capt. Dunham at the head, and to try me ordered that I should go along. I did not know at the time what was in the wind, and I consented. The company consisted of Dunham, Cahoon, Hosea Stout and brother, W. Kerns, Scoville Smoot and myself making seven in all.

We went to the river, and while passing over, the real object of the adventure was disclosed, by the answer of Capt. Dunham to Hosea Stout, who asked what the Prophet's orders were. Dunham replied that they were to take Richardson and bring him, to him (Dunham) if they could do it alive; if not, kill him, and bury him in a dark ravine. At the same time telling Stout to take good care and have it all done correct. He then gave Stout the command

and pronounced the blessings of God upon us all, and ordered Stout, that if any man disobeyed or attempted to back out, that they should not let him turn around, more than once before they shot him, for said he, "dead men tell no tales." Think's I, this is a terrible scrape I have got into; I am paying too dearly for sights, for I assure the reader that I felt horrified at the idea of such proceedings; but there was no alternative. I must go and obey or be shot, so I put on a straight face and determined to go it, but at all hazards to suffer no injury to Richardson or the boy. We all mounted our horses, leaving Dunham and Cahoon to guard the boat, and rode off at a round gallop. We kept our pace until we got four miles back of Montrose, where we halted at a house and got drink. This was about 2 o'clock at night. The man of the house got up and went along with us, to show the way. His name is Hunter, and he is one of the faithful. We again mounted our horses and rode off rapidly. Little was said during the rest of the journey. When we got within about 80 rods of the house, the party stopped, and commenced talking very low. Being in the rear I did not hear what was going on, but on riding up, they raised their voices, and Stout addressed me, saying, that this Richardson was a member of their band in Missouri. What band? said I. The Danite Band, replied Stout. (This was the first time I had ever heard the Danite Band spoken of by the Mormons. They had generally called themselves, the "High Police," in the conversation that I had had with them.) Said he, "this man is a desperate character, and he knows all of us, and therefore it will not be safe for any of us to go into the house. He don't know you, and therefore you must go in, and we will wait about ten rods off, to be on hand in case of difficulty." I declined going alone, but he spoke fiercely, "you know my orders." I made no reply for some rods, being on a walk, when some one of the company who were near, said, "is he going?" I replied, yes. "Amen" they all cried. We rode near the house and stopped. I dismounted, walked up to the door and knocked. "Come in," cried Richardson. I entered, when his aged mother, who lay in a bed, on the opposite side of the room, sprung up in haste, and asked me if I was not General Rich. I replied that I was not. Then said she, "ain't you from Nauvoo." "No", said I. She then said that these men were such a pack of liars, there was no trusting them. Said I "what is the matter." Again she asked if I was not from Nauvoo. "No" said I. "I never was there. I am in pursuit of a horsethief from Burlington." By this time Richardson was partially dressed, and I asked him if I could stay all night. To which he replied in the affirmative. I then asked him if he would go with me, to put up my horse. He said "Yes" and drew on his boots, and got a light prepared. While this was going on, the old

woman eyed me, very sharply, and said that, this was her son, and that he was going to Missouri in the morning, to testify against Avery, a horse thief; and that the reason that she suspected me to be from Nauvoo was, because they had been looking for some of Joe Smith's Danite Band to prevent him from going, and concluded by saying, "I know him of old and he must not send his men after my son; if he does I'll have their cursed hearts out." "Yes," said I, and I'll help you" We then left the house to feed my horse. When we got a little distance, I told him what I wanted. He raised a shovel that was standing near the fence, and bade me not come near him. I then drew my pistol and told him to put down the shovel, or I'd blow his brains out. Here the company came up, and I told Richardson that if he would go along, he should receive no harm. He finally consented, got his horse and mounted him, and I delivered him to the charge of Karnes. We then had another to take, the boy Childs, (I think that is the name) who lived in the neighborhood. We made Richardson pilot us, but he pretended not to know exactly where the boy was, and stopped at his neighbors as the company thought, to enquire, but in reality to give the alarm. After we got the boy, I called Stout to one side and told him that he had foolishly let Richardson talk with his neighbors and that there would be a plot laid to stop us. He seemed to think there was no danger, and said if it proved so, Richardson would be the first man shot. I will here state, that my plan was to release Richardson at Montrose, where I thought I could do it without being suspected by either party, by raising an alarm; and it being dark, no one would know who did it. I told Stout, however, that I did not like our situation, for I did not want to be caught kidnapping, as our situation would be very unpleasant. I would have left the company immediately, had it not been that I could not benefit Richardson without exposing myself; and all I had was in Nauvoo, and I still desired to keep up appearances with Joe, that when I did expose him, I might do it to some purpose.

When we got within a half mile of Montrose, Richardson, who had previously by fair promises, induced Karnes to give up the halter of his horse, which he had held in his hand during most of the journey, put spurs and ran into the town. At this time the boy was on behind me, and of course I could make but little speed; the others however, started after Richardson, and I expected to find them all in town. When I arrived at the old Barracks, I was surprised to find Karnes and Stout alone, sitting on their horses. I asked where the balance of the company was, but they did not know, and appeared to be waiting for them to come up. I suggested that they had gone on to town, and urged them to follow on with me. So on we went,

but on arriving at Peck's store, we were surrounded by about fifteen men, whom Richardson's friends had aroused, and who were armed with guns and bayonets. They soon took off the lad from behind me, and Richardson pointed to me and said to one of the gang, "Uncle John, this is the man that drew a pistol on me and said he would shoot, if I did not drop my shovel." With this, the old fellow, who was very stout, seized the bridle of my horse, and ordered me to turn around and go back to Carpenter's Tavern, saying that Lynch Law was good enough for me, and that I should have until sunrise to say my prayers. This made me feel rather curious, but I determined on a bold push to extricate myself. I drew my pistol, and pointing it directly at the old fellow's head, said I, "Let go my horse or I'll blow off the cap piece of your skull." This confounded him so completely, that he loosed his hold and jumped back. With this, I gave a loud yell, struck my horse with the pistol, and bounded through the men, who stood with fixed bayonets immediately in front of me. My horse received three bayonet wounds, but I escaped unhurt — they fired on me, but it being too dark to see a rod ahead, they shot at random. Stout, in the meantime, escaped in the confusion, and we ran our horses to the ferry boat, where we found the balance of the company we had lost.

We all boarded the boat, (Karnes being, as we thought, in possession of the people of Montrose,) and rowed for our lives over to Nauvoo. On arriving there, we found Joe partially dressed, wrapped in his mantle. He had heard the report of guns on the other side, and had got up at this early hour, which was for him very unusual, to see what had happened. On landing, we told him our story. I damned the men as a pack of cowards, for having left myself, Stout and Karnes. On learning that Karnes was still in Montrose, the Prophet raised an alarm, called out the Legion, and gave orders to pass over the river and release Brother Karnes, who, he said had been kidnapped by the Missourians. The whole City was thus thrown into confusion, and hundreds rushed to the river, and crossed over in all manner of crafts. While this was going on, Karnes was discovered in a canoe paddling across the river above town. All hands went to meet him, and as he landed they cried out, "Hallelujah! Glory to God! well done Brother Karnes!" &c. Karnes was utterly confounded at these demonstrations; but kept still. He could not, however, have looked meaner had he been detected in sheep stealing. So well did Joe manage this affair, that to this day the people of Nauvoo generally believe that Karnes was in reality kidnapped by the Missourians; and of course, the story told by the people of Montrose, was set down by Joe's honest dupes to the credit of persecution. Thus

ended this nefarious plot, which, had it so far succeeded as to have got Richardson to Nauvoo, the order of Joe was to tie an iron bar to his shoulders, and throw him into the Mississippi for cat-fish food.

My action in this affair gave Joe the greatest confidence in me, and aided the belief that I was in reality a desperado. He now threw off all the restraint under which he had previously acted, and seemed no longer to doubt that I would readily carry any measure of his, no matter how black or damnable. In consequence of my having made so great a conquest of his confidence by my conduct in this affair, I was admitted into all his secret councils, and was confided in so far, that he disclosed to me every act of his life, that he had occasion to refer to, in conversation. By this means, I became possessed of facts in relation to the plundering, murdering and counterfeiting operations, in which Joe has been for years engaged, and in which he is aided by accomplices throughout the country. As these things were merely disclosed to me by Joe, I will not venture at present to mention names; but I believe that if the Government and the people would raise the means, and enter in a proper spirit into measures to ferret out the villains, I could disclose facts sufficient to lead to the detection of numbers of a band of scoundrels who infest the whole county, and have their head quarters at Nauvoo. Yes, this far famed Holy City of Nauvoo has been the hiding place of more stolen goods, horses and thieves, than any other spot on earth, and there, under the protection of the city ordinance, which forbid, an officer of justice to search for persons or property, unless the writ was first endorsed by Joe, and executed by the City Marshal — they remained in perfect security.

It is not the country in the immediate vicinity of Nauvoo, that alone suffers from the depredations of these land pirates, the whole State, and Iowa and Missouri to a great extent, feel the scourge.— Yes, in Missouri, Joe Smith has his friends and emissaries. But enough of this, my object is to tell what I saw and heard of events passing before me, and not of what was transpiring at a distance. When, however the time arrives, I will not be silent.

It was shortly after the adventure I have related above, (15th of Jan, 1844) that Joe informed me, in conversation, that he had been endeavoring for some two months, to get Mrs. William Law for a spiritual wife. He said that he had used every argument in his power, to convince her of the correctness of his doctrine, but could not succeed. I then asked him how he dare preach such doctrines to virtuous and well meaning females, in the name of the Lord; and in relation to the particular course he was pursuing towards Mrs. Law, I remarked that it astonished me, to see him

profess so great friendship for Law, while at the time he was endeavoring to destroy his happiness by the seduction of his wife. To this he replied, that Law was trying to seduce Emma, and he was determined to beat him. I then asked him if Emma knew of his having so many spiritual wives; to which he replied that she did, and was knowing to every act of his life, and he believed she was the most virtuous woman on earth; and that she even would not be true to him if she could get a chance; but said he, "I watch her close and mean to, so long as I live." I then asked him if he could blame Law if he should seduce Emma. He seemed to think that Law would not do such a thing. I then reminded that he had just said that Law **had** tried to seduce Emma, in order to justify his own proceedings with Law's wife, but that now he contradicted himself by expressing so much confidence in Law. To get out of his dilemma, he said that the truth was, Emma wanted Law for a spiritual husband, and that she urged as a reason that as he had so many spiritual wives, she thought it but fair that she should at least have one man spiritually sealed up to her, and that she wantde Law, because he was such a "sweet little man." He then tried to persuade me to aid him in his purposes on Mrs. Law, and said that he would employ any strategem, in order to accomplish his object, and went on to say, that he and Emma had both tried to persuade her of the correctness of the doctrine, but that she would not believe it to be of God. I told him that he must carry his plot himself, for I would have nothing to do with such things; but remarked, that if all parties were agreed, that he and Law had better swop wives. To which he replied that that was all Emma wanted. The conversation then turned on other subjects, and Joe boasted of his feats and schemes, and how cunningly he had carried his measures. He spoke of his spiritual wives particularly, and called them "great captains", in his service to carry his design, and remarked that through them he could get any stranger's money. I asked him how he would work the matter; to which he replied, that he had only to tell certain of his spiritual wives, that such a man had been in the Missouri war, and that he should be put out of the way, and his property and money consecrated to the use of the church; then said he, it is d—d easy for them to get into his good graces, and to mix a white powder with his victuals, and put him out of the way. I then told him that he ought to give me the names of these women, as they might be of great service to me in carrying his secret measures. He then went on to give me the names of women, who he said would go to the ends of the earth for him; but I shall not in this place disclose them. My reason for silence on this point is, that the Governor, to whom I disclosed all the abominations to which I refer in these pages, did not pur-

sue the proper policy, but treated my disclosures with contempt. Had he marched to Nauvoo, as was proposed, with an army, I would have been willing to pledge my life that I could have produced proof, damning proof, of every word I have said. To disclose names, when the proof was at hand, would have produced its proper effect; but to mention them in these pages would only defeat the object which I have in view. Besides this, many of Joe's spiritual wives are honest in their belief of the correctness of the doctrine, and to the world they have untarnished characters; it would not therefore be generous in me, nor would the world justify it, to disclose the names of such as are misguided and deceived, but not abandoned, and thus forever blight their reputations. But more of this anon.

To return to Joe's attemps on Mrs. Law. For the purpose of effecting his object he got up a revelation that Law was to be sealed up to Emma, and that Law's wife was to be his; in other words, there was to be a spiritual swop. Joe had never before suffered his passion for any woman, to carry him so far as to be willing to sacrifice Emma for its gratification; but in this case, no doubt, the object was the more prized because of the difficulty of procuring it.

It may be proper here to observe that Law, although one of the principal men of the church, yet he was not one of those to whom it was given to know "the fullness of the kingdom", although an enthusiastic Mormon, yet he was but little acquainted with any other than matters particularly pertaining to the church. He had frequently heard of the spiritual wife doctrine from the Gentiles, but he, not having heard such doctrine taught by Smith, set it down as a slanderous persecution against the church. When, however, this new revelation was made known to him, his eyes were opened, and at once, he indignantly rejected the doctrines as not of God, but of the Devil. Such was his vehemence and indignation, that it became apparent to Joe, that he had presumed too much on Law's faith, and that it would be idle to attempt to stuff him with the doctrine. There was no alternative, therefore for Joe, but to destroy Law's influence, and therefore a great bustle was raised and Law cut off from the holy order. This placed Law, who was particularly sensitive, in an awful dilemma, and so powerfully did the frequent lectures he received, work upon his nerves, that I entertained serious apprehensions that he would become crazed.

One Sunday morning, Joe and I had a long talk concerning Law, in which he avowed, not for the first time, however, his determination to put Law out of the way, for he had become dangerous to the church of Jesus Christ, of Latter Day Saints, and that it was the will of God that he should be removed. He, however, wished to proceed in such a manner that he would be able to get Law's wife. He then

determined on calling out the police, as it was publicly called, but Danites in private, which the city council had given him the sole command of, with power to disband or hold them on duty at his discretion. He determined to keep forty of them on duty, (twenty at a time) under pay of the city. The reason for this proceeding as given to the people, was, that he thought it necessary to have a city watch; but the real object as disclosed to me, was, to murder his enemies. These men were, as Joe told me, sworn to the following oath: "You do, each and every one of you, having the power of the Holy Ghost conferred upon you by the first Presidency of this Church, swear that you will protect me and my household, in every measure that I may deem lawful in the sight of God, or that I consider necessary to the prosperity of the church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints — **Murder** and **Treason** not excepted, so help you God."

After having given me the substance of the oath, he remarked that he could through these means do the thing up nicely. Not only was his design to remove William Law, but also William Marks. The spite he had against the latter, arose from the fact, that he had endeavored to seduce the daughter of Marks, and she had informed her parents who were very wrathy, and Joe dreaded their influence. For this reason, he said that those individuals, if they were not checked, would ruin the church. Now said he, "I will work it this way: I will keep twenty on watch under the command of Capt. Dunham, who will select five to do the work, and these men will both be missing, and then I'll make a great noise about it, and call it **persecution.**" 'Now,' said he, 'aint' this a d—d good plan to get rid of traitors?' 'But,' continued he, 'you must keep this from Emma, for she thinks so much of Law, that she won't submit to it! I replied that I would. He then said that he intended to keep up this watch until he had rid the city of his enemies, and there were some in the country whom he also intended should go by the board. He said that the church had already suffered enough from persecutors, and that he would submit no longer—men must cease their persecutions, or he would give them a dose that would stop them. I had listened patiently thus far, to the mad and hellish schemes of this wretch, when I took a bold and decided stand in opposition to him. I took the part of Law and Marks particularly, for they were the only ones in immediate danger. Joe accused me of tying his hands, and said that he could do nothing if opposed. In the meantime, a Mr. Norton, had become by some means, possessed of the facts, gave Law a hint of what was going on. Emma had also overheard something to arouse her suspicions, and I kept the matter in limbo by hammering at Joe in private. Soon, the plot became almost visible. The people grum-

bled greatly at the immense expense of the forty guards which were kept in pay, without any good cause being assigned, and suspicion was aroused throughout the city, that some underhand work was in contemplation. Wm. and Wilson Law having heard, by the vague information they had received, that either one of them, or Marks was the Judas whom Joe sought, armed themselves and went to Joe's house. On seeing them, Joe became desperately alarmed, and gave every evidence of his apprehensions. They had a long conversation, in the course of which Joe made some abusive remark, which so exasperated Wilson Law, that he drew his pistol, and made Joe swallow his words in a hurry. So great was the excitement, that it was with difficulty that William Law and Hyrum Smith, could prevent Wilson from firing.

Joe seeing his plans foiled, determined on making capital of the whole affair, by raising the cry of persecution. Accordingly he called the City Council together, and in order to show the public that there was no ground for the rumors that had been afloat concerning the plot against Law, he brought all the forty guards up and questioned every man whether he had ever bound them by a secret oath. Every man appeared perfectly amazed, and not one had ever known of any such thing, nor did they know anything about the conspiracy against Law and Marks. This is part of Joe's game, whenever he is accused of secret plots, he calls his men, who are instructed to appear as foolish as possible, to disprove the accusation. In this instance they endeavored so hard to appear silly, that a sensible man might have detected the trick; but the faithful were convinced that Joe had been vilely persecuted and slandered, and that there was no ground whatever for the accusation against him. Joe, after having proved himself innocent by his accomplices, turned on the old man Norton, and called him all manner of vile names; told him his tongue ought to be pulled out by the roots, and said he, 'D—n you, if you ever give vent to such another rumor, without more cause, I will order you cut up and fed to the cat-fish." This was in presence of the City Council, and a large number of spectators. The poor old fellow, who was a true Mormon and an honest man, really thought that the indignation of Heaven was let loose upon him, and he looked the very image of penitence and submission. After delivering himself of his rage on the old man, Joe turned to the City Council and declared that he was Law's warmest friend, and so completely did he spread the deceit on them, that the Laws were induced to keep what had passed between them and Joe to themselves, and to the world every thing appeared fair. Law did not know that I had any knowledge of what passed, until I gave him a hint of his danger, and then disclosed what I knew of the affair that had transpired between him and Joe. From that day, we had a perfect understanding.

To prevent an interruption of my narrative, I have omitted an interview that I had with Joe and Hyrum, at the time the plan to assassinate Law was first concocted.

Previous to Joe having settled upon any particular plan for the removal of Law, he sent for Hyrum to counsel with him. We all three took a walk down the river bank, and Joe made known to Hyrum that he had told me the whole plot against Law's life, which appeared to please him; but he opposed Joe's plan of assassination and stated that if Law was cut off in this manner, it would bring the whole Gentile world down on them. He then suggested what he called a better plan of operation, which was to win Law's friendship by appearing sorry and apologizing for what had happened, and then invite him to a party, where they could easily put a white powder in his tea. Joe thought a few moments on the plan, and said that Emma would be in the way, and she would not suffer it. Hyrum met this objection by saying, that he would get his wife to call off Emma's attention, and then Mrs. Thompson and Mrs. Durfee would do up the business, Law would be taken suddenly ill, they would be called to lay hands on him, and no one would suspect the cause of his death. This course he deemed much safer than Joe's; because by his plan there would be suspicion and trouble. Joe said he would take the evening to think on it, soon after we arrived at the Nauvoo House, and Joe went home. Hyrum and myself proceeded alone to Joe's store. When we arrived there, I proposed to walk back of the store to the river; being desirous to get something further out of Hyrum. I then asked him some questions about Mrs. Thompson, whether she could be trusted, &c. I told him that I did not want her acquaintance unless she was one of the secret women. He replied that I need have no fears of her, for he would trust her with his life. Said he, 'if I were to tell her to put on men men's clothes, and set Law's Mill on fire, she would do it. Oh! my God! she is a captain.' I then remarked, that I had heard that she was one of his spiritual wives, and now I did not doubt it. Said he, 'who told you,' I replied that the Prophet told me, not only of her, but of nearly all their secret women, and it was right that he did, for they might be of service to me in carrying their measures. 'Yes!' said he, 'I have slept between her and my wife.' 'My God', said I, 'how did you keep them from quarrelling? 'Oh,' said he, 'they are sisters; and that is not all, they are one in Christ Jesus.' He then went on to give me a history of his feats with his spiritual wives, but for reasons above mentioned, I will withhold names.

There are women, however, who should be exposed, such as this Mrs. Durfee. Taking her own confession and Joe's stories as correct, there is not, I believe, such another perfect fiend in human

shape on the Earth. A more devout, pious and virtuous being, than she apparently is, cannot be found in any church; but a more perfect specimen of knavery, villainy and every thing that is detestable in humanity, than she in reality is, the Union cannot produce. A stranger who visits Nauvoo can form no idea of the corruption practiced in the city. To him, every thing appears perfectly quiet and harmonious, and he is favorably impressed; and hence, sets down all that he hears against the Mormons, as originating in religious intolerance. Nay! a man may live for years in this place, and know but little of its iniquities, so completely does Joe cover up his crime. Many who were disposed to tell what they knew, were deterred and are still deterred by the fear of the power of Joe and the secret clan about him. When any thing of a disgraceful character is disclosed, Joe, ever ready to prove a negative, will bring together his clan and prove himself perfectly innocent; and thus, no matter how vile his conduct in private, the individual who ventures to disclose it, not only runs the risk of his life, but has but little hope of making the people believe his story. Joe's conduct with the women of Nauvoo, surpasses every thing in blackness that I have ever heard or read of. I have from his own mouth, and from the mouth of his victims, statements which I dare not reveal; for the world will not believe that such corruption could possibly exist. Yet, if protection could be afforded to some of those females who were the victims of these wretches (the leaders in Nauvoo,) I could, I believe, from their own mouths, procure confessions that would startle the world. I have visited frequently, those women whom Joe supported for the gratification of his lust — I have found them subsisting on the coarsest food, and not daring to utter a word of complaint, for they feared Joe Smith more than they did their God. I have appealed to the finer feelings of their nature, and seen them weep as children, when dwelling on the degraded state to which their credulity had reduced them. Knowing me to be in the confidence of Joe, they hesitated not to unfold their griefs to me, but their neighbors and acquaintances generally, know nothing of their feelings or their degradation. These remarks apply only to a portion of the spiritual wives, for there are many who are as corrupt as Joe himself.

From my knowledge of the spiritual wife system I should think that the number of secret women in Nauvoo cannot be much less than six hundred. There are many married, as well as single women in this number; and so slyly do they carry on their operations, that the husbands of many have never mistrusted the fact. Occasionally, a matter of this kind was detected, that opened the eyes of a few persons; and so conspicuous were things made to appear the early part of this spring, that every man in the city, who was not so blinded by fanaticism as to doubt the evidence of his own senses, could

have seen what damnable iniquity was practiced. In consequence of the discoveries then made by the two Laws, Dr. Foster and others and the exposure that followed, many of the most intelligent and respectable of the church dissented, denounced Joe as a fallen prophet, and formed a new society. But to return to my conversation with Hyrum. After giving me his experience in the spiritual wife system, he urged me to take a few women, and named two or three whom he said would suit me. I thanked him, and said I had no desire to form any connection with any women in the city, but if I should change my mind I would give his choice the preference, in part. As we returned to the store, we met Dr. Richards, and Hyrum said to him that he would prophecy on my head that I would soon come into the church, and become as great a man as ever Paul was. To this I made but little reply, and left them together. I went down to Joe's house, and on entering, I found Joe in conversation with Emma, who was weeping bitterly. I asked Joe if he was engaged. He replied by telling me to walk into his council room, and he would be there presently. I accordingly went in, and found Porter Rockwell sweeping the room. After I took my seat, Rockwell remarked that there was trouble in the camp. Said I, "yes, and it appears to be of a serious nature." Presently Joe entered and took his seat beside me. He appeared vexed with Emma, because she opposed him in his plans against Law. He said she was mad because she could not get Law for a spiritual husband, and that he would be obliged to turn off his spiritual wives, that he kept about the house.

Accordingly, in a few days Joe broke up house keeping and Ebenezer Robinson took the house. Joe and all his family boarded with him; and thus ten or twelve poor females whom he had duped, and some of whom really thought, that they had had the Holy Ghost for a bed-fellow, were turned out of house and home to shift for themselves. Joe's reason as given to the people, for thus breaking up housekeeping, was that he had too much business, and had not time sufficient to attend to both household concerns and the affairs of the church. But to return to my conversation with Joe in the council room. He said that he had come to a firm determination that no traitor should live in the city, and that there were some in the country who he said should go by the board. He named Laws, Doctor & C. A. Foster, Higbee, Kilbourn of Fort Madison, Fleak of Keokuk, Sharp, Col. Williams, H. T. Wilson and A. Sympson, who, he said, were a pack of persecuting d—d rascals, and were continually sapping his heart's blood by their influence; and continued he, "I will prophecy in the name of God that every one of the d—d vipers shall be cut off." "There," said he, "I have said it in the name of Almighty God, and one by one they

shall be missing, and my prophecy fulfilled to the letter. Now don't you oppose me, for you will weaken my arm." I scarcely knew which to be the most astonished at, the infernal villainy, or the mad presumption of the wretch. He seemed to think that he could with perfect impunity, rid the country of his enemies. I have no doubt that he could, so far as law is concerned; but past experience should have taught him to fear the vengeance of an excited multitude. After giving me this caution, he remarked that if I would strengthen his arm, he would build me up in the world. It was shortly after this conversation, that I commenced my opposition to him, concerning his plot against Law; this I did not do however, until I saw his plan of operation was matured. When this was made apparent, I took a bold stand, and in the presence of his secret council, and of several of his Danites, I denounced the plot, as a foul, cowardly and damnable piece of villainy. He soon saw that I was not what he had imagined me to be, and as a stepping stone to the accomplishment of his great object, he laid a plot for my removal. He appeared, if anything, more friendly than ever, and I began to mistrust treachery; but for some time could get no evidence, until at last some of his women disclosed that a plot was on foot against me.

In the meantime, I endeavored to talk him out of his plot against Law, and gave Law a few hints of his danger, but not of a pointed or definite character, for fear that he would be hasty, yet sufficient to put him on his guard. In order that I might be able to get all the information I desired, concerning the secret designs against me, I commenced a correspondence with Hyrum Smith's daughter, and so completely won her confidence, that she watched every movement and reported to me her observations. From her, I obtained many valuable items, and amongst the rest, the truth of a certain rumor that had been afloat in town, concerning Joe's having feigned a revelation, that he should have the wife of William Smith married to him spiritually. This was in the winter of 1842-'3, while William was in the Legislature and previous to my last residence in Nauvoo. His wife wrote to him, and told what overtures Joe had made, which greatly exasperated William, and produced quite a disturbance in the Holy City. When William returned to Nauvoo, he gave the people's Prophet a grand flogging. Lavina, (Hyrum's daughter) in her conversation with me, declared the above statement true, and said that that was not the worst. I pressed her to tell me all, and finally she said that about the latter part of May, 1843, Joe had feigned a revelation to have Mrs. Milligan, his own sister, married to him spiritually. This was just after William Smith had left Nauvoo to preside over a branch of the church at Philadelphia; Joe and he having hushed up their differ-

ences. When this revelation was made know to Mrs. Milligan, she wrote to William, giving an account of Joe's conduct and said that she should go back to the State of Maine and spend the summer. When she received an answer from William, she accordingly did go. In his answer, William gave Mrs. Milligan a good piece of advice concerning Lavina; and cautioned her not to let Joe get the advantage of her. Previous, however, to this answer arriving, Joe had a revelation concerning Lavina, who was at that time living with him and attending on her Grandmother. Lavina went to her aunt, Mrs. Milligan, for advice, and enquired of her if this was lawful in the sight of God. Mrs. Milligan told her not to submit, and wept bitterly to think Joe was so base as first to try to seduce William's wife, then his own sister, and lastly his niece. She advised Lavina to leave Joe's house and to shun it as she would a house of ill fame. Accordingly, Lavina did so.

About this time, I had a conversation with Joe, (who, it will be recollected still professed great friendship for me, doubtlessly for sinister purposes), which turned on the spiritual wife doctrine. Joe had been drinking quite freely, and I broached the subject of the rumor concerning Mrs. Milligan and Lavina. Joe would not own that he had tried his own sister, but confessed the whole matter in relation to Lavina; and said that he got Hyrum to consent to it by giving him one of his spiritual girls, whom Hyrum loved dearly, (a Miss S.) He said that he had lost Lavina by the foolishness of Clayton but, said he, 'I'll have her yet.' This William Clayton is one of Joe's private clerks and a ready cat's paw for all manner of base work. He has lived with his wife and wife's sister in common for the last year, and has children by both of them. This is the man who Joe had set to work to lead his niece into the paths of iniquity, aiding him by feigned revelations. But this innocent girl had timely warning from her aunt, who admonished her not to hearken to the foul counsels of her father and uncle, and was thus saved from the pit into which so many had fallen. In relation to Mrs. Milligan, I would observe, that although not personally acquainted with her, I have frequently heard her spoken of by Joe's spiritual wives, who never failed to eulogize her as a noble and excellent woman. I have heard some of them say, after my depicting their desperate condition to them, 'Oh that I had taken the advice of Mrs. Milligan, I might then have been saved from all this infamy to which I am now reduced.' From which it will appear that Lavina was not the first she had warned.

As before stated, when Joe saw that I was in opposition to his dastardly and black hearted measures concerning Law, he began to plot against my life; but having several confidents amongst the women, I kept the windward of him, but determined to leave the

city as soon as I could settle some business that I had on hand. The first plot that I learned of, was to get up a California expedition, and murder me on the route. I had lived in California, and Joe knew that I had crossed the prairies. He therefore proposed to send under my direction a company of his Danites to California, to explore the country and look out a situation for a branch of the church. This thing was talked of for several days, without my suspecting the object. A certain lady, however, who had heard Joe, Hyrum and Dr. Richards in conversation, came to me and gave me to understand what was going on; and told me that the plot was to get started, and kill me; and then return and report that the Indians had shot their pilot, and they were obliged to return. This she declared was the sole object of the California expedition, and she made me swear that I would never divulge her name. She is a young lady, and lives yet in Nauvoo, and she is obliged to live there, and I would be very sorry to give her any trouble while she is yet in bondage. I had good reason to believe this lady's statements, for they came from the purest motives, and as soon as I refused to go to California, the whole matter dropt, and I heard no more of the expedition.

The next plot which I heard of, was, for Willard Richards to invite me to go with him hunting on the Island. There several men were to be placed in ambush, who would shoot me, and then Richards to run to the city and cry 'mob, persecution, Missourians & c.' This plot, was also revealed to me by a young lady, who wished much to serve me. Shortly after this revelation, Richards met me on the street and proposed a hunting excursion on the Island. I made an evasive reply, and gave him a significant hint as to his object.

Another plot which was detected in the execution, was this: I slept, at Snyder's, on the ground floor, immediately under a window. One night I was wakened by a kind of nibbling noise like that of the gnawing of a rat. A curtain was drawn across the window, and the assassin was attempting to cut the putty from the glass, and then draw the curtain aside that he might make a sure shot. On hearing the noise, I arose gently in bed, and seized my pistol. The villain however, heard the noise, and fled. The next morning the tracks of his feet were visible, the cutting of the putty from the glass was also witnessed, and in the haste of the retreat, the fence had been knocked down. These things were seen by many of Snyder's family, and others, who will substantiate my statement After the last evidences being presented to me of Joe's intentions on my life, I went several times to see him, but could never find him. He was sick or absent, or some such excuse was all the satisfaction I could get. O. P. Rockwell had the impudence once to

ask me "what my business with the General was." I replied that that was a matter between him and me. My determination was to beard him in his villainy, and if he gave the slightest provocation to shoot him. Shortly after the last menioned attempt on my life I left the Holy City.

As regards Lavina Smith, I should not have mentioned her name, if it were not that William Smith last spring, in St. Louis, gave me the same statement in regard to Joe's treatment of her, Mrs. Milligan and of his wife, which I have detailed above. William remarked, that Mrs. Milligan had always thwarted Joe, and she always would; and the reason why Joe had treated him as he had, was because he had always opposed him in his diabolical schemes of assassination. I believe that William, is too honorable a man, to deny this statement; indeed, at one time, it would have taken but little provocation to have induced him to have exposed Joe, and all his schemes of villainy.

I have now given a brief sketch of some of the damnable practices carried on, in the name of religion, in Nauvoo; but to avoid an interruption, I have omitted to narrate several matters that passed before my observation. The world is generally aware of the fact, that Joe Smith was a candidate for the Presidency. This has excited universal contempt and merriment; for no one conceived that Joe had any idea of his own success; but he had his object, even in this, which was more treasonable and deeper laid than a person unacquainted with him could imagine. His object was simply this: — There was a Mr. Brown, formerly of Rushville, Ill., with whom I became acquainted in Nauvoo, soon after my arrival there. This man has a wonderful genius for invention, and has planned a sub-marine battery and steam fire ship, which, to all appearance, is capable of great execution. He stated to me, that he had been operating for 21 years, in perfecting this work, but had not the means to bring the matter before the nation, and that Joe had made him a proposition, which had caused him to remove to Nauvoo. This proposition was, to furnish the means to take him, together with G. A. Adams and Orson Hyde, to Russia, where the invention would be laid before the Emperor; and as Joe had great faith in its success, he expected a large sum for the secret, which Brown and Joe were to divide. This was palmed off on Brown, but was far from being Joe's real object. His real object, as he disclosed it to me, was this: He would first run for President, and thus be be able to prove to the Emperor of Russia his strength in the Union. He would then send G. A. Adams, Orson Hyde and Brown to Russia, and after the utility of the invention had been fairly proved to the Emperor, Joe's proposition to him was to be submitted: which was to form a league for the overthrow of the

powers that be. Now this may seem too ridiculous for any man to imagine possible; nevertheless, no one acquainted with the excessive vanity of Joe Smith, will doubt but that he in reality believed that he could form even so preposterous a union. Joe's idea was, that by the aid of Brown's invention, he could introduce himself to the Emperor, and having the strongest faith in the efficiency of the new discovery as an instrument of warfare; he imagined, that if His Majesty could once see the wonderful work, that he would be willing even to take him as a partner in the benefits, for the sake of its advantages. As wild as this scheme may seem, it is no wilder than many that have characterized Mormonism from its infancy.

I deem it proper here to mention, that I told Gov. Ford, after his arrival at Carthage, of the substance of what I have disclosed in these pages; and moreover, that I would pledge myself, if a **posse** sufficient for protection were furnished, that I would go to Nauvoo, and show the secret passages and hiding places in the city, and furnish evidence of the strongest character to substantiate the truth of what I had stated to him in relation to the Bogus operations, spiritual wife iniquity, plans of assassination, tampering with the Indians, &c. An order was given at one time, to march the forces to Nauvoo, as I supposed for that purpose, but after the arrival of a certain politician, things took a turn; the order was countermanded, and a portion of the troops were disbanded on the prairie, while on their march. The world is aware of what resulted from their exasperation in consequence thereof. The limits of these pages preclude any further remarks on this subject.

The following affidavits are from men of unquestionable veracity. They speak for themselves.

STATE OF ILLINOIS,)
) ss.
Hancock County.)

Before the undersigned, a Justice of Hancock, and State of Illinois, personally appeared, Harmon T. Wilson, who being duly sworn, deposeth and says: That in the latter part of the winter, and early in the spring of 1843, he had several conversations with Joseph H. Jackson, in relation to the taking of Joe Smith on a writ which was expected from Missouri. Jackson then proposed, that he would go to Nauvoo, and gain, if possible, the confidence of Smith that he might be able to ferret out his villainy, and co-operate with the agent of Missouri and myself, in arresting Joe and bringing him to justice, to which proposition I assented, and further this deponent sayeth not.

H. T. WILSON

Sworn and subscribed before me this fourteenth day of August, A. D. 1844
GEO. ROCKWELL, J. P., (L.S.)

STATE OF ILLINOIS,)
) ss.
Hancock County.)

Personally appeared before me, an acting Justice of the Peace, in and for the County of Hancock, Michael Barnes, Jr., first being duly sworn, deposeth and saith, that sometime during the win-

ter or spring of 1843, Joseph H. Jackson, was going to the city of Nauvoo, to ferret out the iniquity of Joe Smith, that he, (Jackson) believed, that Joe Smith had he (Jackson) shot at during the winter, and that he (Jackson), was determined to have revenge, and further this deponet saith not.

MICHAEL BARNES, JR.

Sworn to and subscribed before me, this 13th day of August, A. D. 1844.
R. F. SMITH, J. P., (L.S.)

STATE OF ILLINOIS,)
) ss.
Hancock County.)

Benj. A. Gallop, after being duly sworn deposeth and saith: That whilst on business at Nauvoo on the 24th or 25th of June A. D. 1843; in conversation with J. H. Jackson, I came to the conclusion that he (Jackson) was a spy on the character and conduct of Joe Smith, the Mormon Prophet for purposes unknown to deponent. And further this deponent sayeth not.

BENJ. A. GALLOP.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 13th day of August, A. D. 1844.
ROBT F. SMITH, J.P., (L.S.)

Thomas L. Barnes, after being duly sworn deposeth and saith: Some time in December, 1842, I was in Nauvoo on business, whilst there I fell in company with Mr. Joseph H. Jackson. He informed me that a few evenings previous to that time, he had been shot at by some person unknown to him; but believed it to be some of Joe Smith's followers. When I returned home he (Jackson) come with me, and spent the remainder of the winter at my house. Whilst there I frequently heard Jackson speak of Joe Smith, and his followers, he said he believed Joe Smith as grand a villain as ever lived, and that he believed he could get into his confidence and thereby expose his iniquities; which he said he was determined to do.

John Finch, Esq., informed me that he was present and in company with Jackson when he (Jackson) was shot at; and picked the powder out of his face, then was blown in by the discharge of the pistol. And further this deponent saith not.

THOMAS L. BARNES

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 13th day of August, A. D. 1844.
R. F. SMITH, J. P. (Seal)

STATE OF ILLINOIS,)
) ss.
Hancock County.)

Personally appeared before me, an acting Justice of the peace, in and for the county aforesaid, Alexander Barnes, and after being first duly sworn, deposeth and saith, that at different times in the course of the winter and spring of 1843, Joseph H. Jackson did state to me that he intended to go into Nauvoo, for the purpose of ferreting out the iniquities that were practiced by Joe Smith and his gang, and that he, J. H. Jackson, believed that Joe Smith caused the attempt to be made upon his life by shooting him, upon a certain occasion at night in the early Part of that winter, and that he (Jackson) was determined to have revenge, and further this deponent saith not.

ALEXANDER W. BARNES

Sworn to and subscribed before me, an acting Justice of the Peace, in and for said county, this 13th day of August, 1844.

R. F. SMITH, J. P. (L. S.)

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